

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-24.(Cancelled as Non-elected)

1 25. (Currently Amended) A rod lens array according to claim 36 and including at  
2 least one rod lens having a center-line-average roughness of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  - 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  on  
3 the peripheral surface.

1 26. (Previously Presented) A rod lens array in which constituent rod lenses are  
2 such that representative values for the center-line-average roughness on their  
3 peripheral surfaces are between 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  as averaged for the whole lens  
4 array.

1 27. (Currently Amended) A rod lens array in which representative value for  
2 center-line-average roughness of peripheral surfaces of constituent rod lenses have  
3 a standard deviation between 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  and 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  for the whole lens array.

1 28. (Currently Amended) A rod lens array in which representative value for  
2 diameters of constituent rod lenses have a standard deviation between 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$   
3 and 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  for the whole lens array.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The rod lens array according to claim 26, wherein the  
2 representative values for the center-line-average roughness are each a value on a  
3 straight line that extends on the peripheral surface of the lens parallel to its axis.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The rod lens array according to claim 26, wherein the  
2 representative values for the center-line-average roughness are each the average of  
3 values on different straight lines that extend on the peripheral surface of the lens  
4 along its axis.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The rod lens array according to claim 26, wherein each  
2 of the rod lenses has a center-line-average roughness of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  - 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  on the  
3 peripheral surface.

1 32. (Previously Presented) The rod lens array according to claim 27, wherein each  
2 of the rod lenses has a center-line-average roughness of  $0.5\ \mu\text{m}$  -  $2.0\ \mu\text{m}$  on the  
3 peripheral surface.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The rod lens array according to claim 31, wherein the  
2 center-line-average roughness of peripheral surfaces of the constituent rod lenses  
3 have a standard deviation between  $0.01\ \mu\text{m}$  and  $0.2\ \mu\text{m}$  for the whole lens array.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The rod lens array according to claim 26, further  
2 comprising:  
3 a resin portion that is integral with the constituent rod lenses such that it  
4 fills the gap between adjacent rod lenses and surrounds all rod lenses.

1 35. (Previously Presented) The rod lens array according to claim 34, wherein a  
2 frame is fixed to at least one of two opposite outer surfaces of said resin portion  
3 such that the frame is parallel with the rod lenses.

1 36. (New) A rod lens array comprising:  
2 a plurality of gradient index rod lenses each of which are spaced apart by  
3 an average spacing of  $1\ \mu\text{m}$  to  $5\ \mu\text{m}$ ; and  
4 means for fixing the gradient index rod lens in alignment in an integral rod  
5 lens array unit.

1 37. (New) The rod lens array of claim 36, wherein the average spacing is in a  
2 range of  $2\ \mu\text{m}$  to  $5\ \mu\text{m}$ .

1 38. (New) The rod lens array of claim 36, wherein variation in alignment pitch,  
2 horizontal variation and/or height variation is suppressed.

1 39. (New) A rod lens array according to claim 36 and in which constituent rod  
2 lenses are such that representative values for the center-line-average roughness on  
3 their peripheral surfaces are between 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  as averaged for the whole  
4 lens array.

1 40. (New) A rod lens array according to claim 36 in which center-line-average  
2 roughness of peripheral surfaces of constituent rod lenses have a standard  
3 deviation between 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  and 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  for the whole lens array.

1 41. (New) A rod lens array according to claim 36 in which diameters of  
2 constituent rod lenses have a standard deviation between 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  and 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  for  
3 the whole lens array.